



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOST MEETING ON VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT PROGRAM**

**EDINBURG, TEXAS, March 29, 2005** – USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel announced today that the Agency will hold a seminar to discuss the Value Added Producer Grant program. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at the University of Texas-Pan American Annex Building, 2412 South Closner, Edinburg, Texas.

“This grant program will foster the development of value-added projects to help create the opportunity for economic development and job creation in rural areas,” said Daniel. “USDA Rural Development is committed to providing the necessary tools to help rural businesses create jobs and improve the quality of life for their communities.”

Authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Value-Added Agricultural Producer Grant Program provides an opportunity to refine agricultural commodities and products to increase their value in the marketplace. Grants may be used for planning activities and working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Value-added agricultural proposals are being requested from eligible independent agricultural producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures interested in this program. The application deadline for the Agency’s 2005 Value-Added Producer Grant Program is May 6, 2005.

To reserve a seat or learn more about this program, contact the Edinburg Local Office (956) 383-4928, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>. USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and its mission is to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation’s rural residents.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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